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# HOLYOKE the Sun

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A scattered group of people attend the listening session in person to discuss ways the City might be able to help restaurants, the meeting was also held over Zoom.

Photos by Shelby Macri



From left; Aaron Vega Director of Planning and Economic Development, Alicia M. Zoeller Director of Community Development, and Interim Mayor Terrence Murphy listen intently while people make comments.

## Mayor holds second listening session

*Restaurants  
were the target of  
this week's session*

By Shelby Macri  
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – After holding a listening session for business leaders on April 23, Acting Mayor Terrence Murphy held another session geared to restaurants Tuesday, May 25.

The listening session was held both in person in the City Hall Auditorium and on Zoom,

where people could ask questions or give comments on the challenges or opportunities in the restaurant industry today. A good amount of people attended with seven in person and seven or eight attending online, Murphy said he'd like to have seen more people show up but as the first of the sessions he understands the number of attendees.

Due to COVID-19 and the pandemic it created, many restaurants were impacted by the quarantine and the ensuing pandemic. Different guide-

lines and restrictions regarding opening has made it difficult for some restaurants to operate, other factors come into play as well like unemployment claims.

The owner of Dino's Pizza Restaurant mentioned a few issues he's seen and experienced; including new help, amount of business, and traffic concerns. He explained that while the weekdays can bring in customer's, after Friday he doesn't get business as local residents are going out to other towns to eat. When he mentioned having a help

issue Director of Community Development Alicia M. Zoeller asked for elaboration.

To which he mentioned when he's looking for new employee's one of the first things they inquire about is if the restaurant offers unemployment benefits. Many people who are receiving unemployment benefit currently are making more money than some of the restaurants can offer, causing short staffing and other issues associated within the business. Zoeller asked what a solution to this issue could be, she and

Murphy agreed that this is something they've heard about recently.

"I've heard the issue in terms of people not being able to get people to come to work," said Murphy. "The unemployment situation has definitely been a part of that. So we need people to come in, we need to get you back to your full salary and you're thriving, and you're doing it within your recognized means. And if we can assist in doing that and getting you all

See LISTENING, page 11

## Executive order rescinded by acting administration

By Shelby Macri  
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – On Wednesday, May 26, Acting Mayor Terence Murphy issued an executive order to rescind an executive order made by Mayor Alex Morse last year.

Murphy rescinded the executive order of June 17, 2020 declaring racism and police violence as matters of public health that constitute a public health emergency. Murphy's order is not as lengthy as Morse's; he said that he kept it short and to the point rather than Morse's two page order with many whereas's. Murphy comments that the order was made during last year's police strife and was a direct result from George Floyd's case, the order included measure for the city to take that never got fulfilled.

The state had named June 19 as Juneteenth Independence Day, Murphy mentioned that he rescinded Morse's order so he could address June 19 as a state

and city holiday that will be observed. Additionally, he cited one of the five orders Morse outlined; the establishment of a Citizen Police Advisory Committee, which hasn't happened since its creation was declared. Murphy said he meet with one person who was considered for the committee, he shared that they only meet with Morse once as a preliminary action and no other progress was made.

"Will I do the advisory committee?" Murphy said. "Maybe. But if I do make it, I will be a part of it. He (Morse) recommended things that had not been started. A few aspects that were to be handled by the city council. I don't remember doing these things or even talking about them."

Murphy understands there are prejudices, but the city and the community members have to be better, the city offices and police department has to do better.

Murphy said that his goal is no matter where you are regardless of race,

age, gender, or anything else; everyone in Holyoke should be respected. There are state reforms for police and other projects happening in the state and city, though Murphy encouraged people to say something or call someone if they see an act of profiling or racism. Murphy wants every single person to be respected and meet with dignity, and the city will continue to work on improving and combating systemic racism within the community.

In his executive order, Murphy states that Holyoke should always be a community that welcomes diversity in its many forms, and it's his expectation that all city departments consistently treat everyone with respect while serving the public regardless of race or ethnicity. Murphy said he receive questions from people wondering if the order itself was still in effect and what was done about June 19, he wanted to make it clear

See ORDER, page 5

## Bond bill for Soldiers' Home signed by Governor Baker

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – After months of debate and the tragedy involving nearly 80 residents, the residents of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home are getting a new facility.

Earlier this week, Gov. Charlie Baker signed into law a \$400 million bond bill that will reconstruct the Holyoke Soldiers' Home. Additionally, he signed a bill for \$200 million for the expansion of Veterans house services across the state.

Last year, during the COVID-19 pandemic, 77 residents died of the coronavirus and the administration of the home is being blamed. But also to blame, according to reports and testimony from parties involved, were the inadequate facilities the residents were living in.

To that end, legislation was filed recently seeking a massive bond bill to build a better facility in Holyoke. The effort was led by Holyoke's state sen-

ator, John Velis, D-Westfield. He worked with a conference committee that finalized the bill. Following the Senate vote to send the bill to the governor's desk, Velis celebrated the passed legislation.

"The funding authorized in this bill will ensure that the future residents of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home and Veterans across our Commonwealth receive the care with honor and dignity that they have earned in service to our nation," said Senator Velis, who is also Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. "The vote brings us one step closer towards fulfilling that mission."

Because the bill has now been signed, the state is currently working towards an Aug. 1 VA Veterans State Home Construction Grant Program deadline. DCAMM, the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, cannot begin the design process

See BILL, page 5



# Holyoke Community College Commencement set for June 5

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will celebrate the classes of 2020 and 2021 on Saturday, June 5, with a virtual Commencement ceremony starting at 10 a.m.

This live-streamed event will be accessible through the HCC website – [hcc.edu](http://hcc.edu) – and the college’s social media channels.

The ceremony will feature introductory and concluding remarks from President Christina Royal and Robert Gilbert, chair of the HCC Board of Trustees.

Keynote speeches will be delivered by two members of the HCC faculty: Raúl Gutiérrez, of Holyoke, associate professor of Spanish and recipient of the 2021 Elaine Marieb Faculty Chair for Teaching Excellence; and Vanessa

Martinez, of Holyoke, professor of Anthropology and recipient of the 2020 Elaine Marieb Faculty Chair for Teaching Excellence.

The student address will be given by graduating HCC student Tugce Kuruca ’21, of Chicopee.

The event will include musical performances by Christian Santiago of Holyoke, from the Class of 2020, playing the cuatro (a four-string Latin American guitar); graduating music major Chan Collins ’21, playing the cello; and the



Raul Gutierrez



Vanessa Martinez

HCC College Chorale.

The virtual event will feature a virtual procession of graduates from the classes of 2020 and 2021 and a collection of photos and short congratulatory videos from faculty and staff.

The Elaine Marieb Faculty Chair for Teaching Excellence was endowed by the late HCC professor emeritus Elaine Marieb ’80. Each year, one full-time member of the faculty is recognized with the award for outstanding classroom teaching. Award recipients serve for one year and

receive a small stipend for professional development and also give the keynote graduation speech.

Because of the pandemic, HCC did not have a Commencement ceremony in 2020, so Prof. Martinez, the 2020 Marieb Award winner, was invited to give her speech this year.

In addition to their classroom teaching responsibilities, Gutiérrez is chair of the HCC Foreign Languages program and co-founder and coordinator of HCC’s Latinx Studies program, while Martinez is coordinator of the HCC Honors Program.

Detailed information about Commencement can be found at [hcc.edu/commencement](http://hcc.edu/commencement)

The ceremony will be closed captioned and ASL interpreted.

## Holyoke Farmers Market kicked off last Saturday

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Farmers’ Market kicked off last Saturday on Race Street, between Appleton St. and Dwight St. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The market will run every Saturday and conclude on the Oct. 16. Entrance to the market can be found at the intersection of Appleton St and Race St. The market will continue to closely follow all COVID-19 regulations and restrictions prescribed by the Holyoke Board of Health and State.

Customers can expect to see a large variety of foods from potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, fruits, to an array of cheeses and meats from existing vendors such as D&R Farm and Atlas Farm, and additionally from our 14 new ven-

dors! This season the Holyoke Farmers’ Market is also welcoming various non-food vendors such as Terra Pots who sells plants, Bath Thyme Soap Shop, Blu Angel Flame who sells Candles, and NA Brews, who produce non-alcoholic beverages. Food Trucks will be lined up at the market as well, as the market welcomes Mr. ICE, Mr. Whippy, and Crave Food Truck.

The Market is equipped to accept SNAP/EBT as well as HIP, a statewide program which offers SNAP participants an automatic rebate when they purchase fruits and vegetables from participating Massachusetts farms. If a customer has an EBT card, they automatical-

ly have \$40 in free farmers’ market money towards fruits and vegetables! “Not many people know about HIP, and how when they come to the market they have free money to spend which benefits both the local farms and the customer,” explains Charlie Henzel, Market Manager.

The Holyoke Farmers Market is a collaborative market between the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce and the Holyoke Food and Equity Collective. Through this collaboration, the market has seen remarkable growth and interest among the Holyoke community, with the ultimate goal of increasing food access in Holyoke.



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2 • MAY 28, 2021 • The Holyoke Sun



# Homework House announces summer program for children

HOLYOKE – It’s once again time for summer fun and learning at Homework House’s Summer Readers and Leaders Program. This year’s program will begin on Tuesday, July 6, and will end on Friday, Aug. 6. The program will run each week Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is open to all children who will be entering 2nd-5th grades and is free to all who attend. Breakfast and lunch are included. Summer Readers and Leaders will take place at Homework House, 340 Chestnut Street in Holyoke. Over the

five weeks, the program will focus on helping young readers develop and improve their basic literacy skills in small groups with credentialed reading teachers. Children will be guided in group and individualized literacy activities every morning. Afternoons will be filled with fun summer activities, indoors and outdoors such as arts & crafts, cooperation games, board games, and computer time. Weekly trips to the library and field trips will round out the summer. Homework House will also offer a new middle school program

for those going into Grade 6th – 8th. Children will be welcomed to an engaging literacy routine in the morning, and then academic and career readiness activities in the afternoon which will include exploratory college and career preparation as well as virtual meetings with college students. This program will be offered at Homework House’s site at 485 Appleton Street, Holyoke. Both programs include breakfast, lunch, and a snack - critically important at a time when many of the children would otherwise go hungry.

Homework House serves children, ages 6 to 12, from the Holyoke Public Schools. Since its beginning, it has offered free tutoring and mentoring. Today, it offers services from three different locations in Holyoke. Tutors, many of who are volunteers from local colleges and the community, provide individualized instruction to strengthen children’s educational learning and retention. To register for the program or for more info, please call 413-887-2012 or email HHstaff@HomeworkHouseHolyoke.org.

# Wistariahurst Museum to host summer landscape tours

HOLYOKE – This summer, join Wistariahurst staff and volunteers for a guided tour of the historic gardens and grounds. On Thursday, June 10 at 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 17 at 10:00 a.m., Wistariahurst Curator and Holyoke City Historian, Penni Martorell, will lead walking tours joined by Wistariahurst garden volunteers. Attendees will learn about how the landscape and gardens have evolved over the years, what has been planted here historically, and the history of this plot of land. Your guides will share stories about how the Skinner family came to be here and what the property looked

like when they lived here. Tickets are \$10 and \$7 for Wistariahurst Museum Members, students, and seniors. Tickets are available at [www.Wistariahurst.org](http://www.Wistariahurst.org). Advance registration is required and tickets are limited. Please note that this tour takes place entirely outside and is approximately 45 minutes long. Our tour guides will use basic sound amplification. We ask that participants maintain 6 feet social distance and/or wear a mask. Hand sanitizer will be available. All guests will be asked to sign in for contact tracing purposes.

# Dress for Success holding June tag sale

SPRINGFIELD – Dress for Success Western Massachusetts will host another of its popular clothing tag sales—this time outside under a huge tent in the parking lot of the Eastfield Mall. Hundreds of women have refreshed their wardrobes at past tag sales, while at the same time supporting Dress for Success’ mission to empower women to achieve economic independence. Women can choose from an extensive array of clothing, shoes, accessories and more. These new and gently used items include selections from name-brand fashion houses such as Anne Klein, Evan Picone, Ellen Tracy and many more. Customers can fill a shopping bag for only \$25. If you have clothing that you’d like to donate, please call 413-732-8179 to make an appointment. Because the tag sale is outside, there

will not be rooms to try on clothes. If anyone buys something that doesn’t fit, they can pass it on to friends or others in need. For everyone’s safety, we respectfully suggest wearing a mask while inside the tent. The tag sale will be held Friday, June 18, through Thursday, June 24, in the parking lot of the Eastfield Mall at 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, where Dress for Success maintains a boutique. Be sure to tell your friends and mark your calendar. Volunteers are needed on June 14-17 to set up, June 18-24 to staff the tent, and June 25 to break down the event. If you are interested, please contact [dressforsuccessspringfield@gmail.com](mailto:dressforsuccessspringfield@gmail.com). For more information about Dress for Success Western Mass., please contact Executive Director Margaret Tantillo at (860) 638-8980.



Big E cream puffs and other goodies will soon be available to go. Submitted photo

# Big E bakery open on weekends

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Eastern States Exposition announces the opening of The Big E Bakery in its New England Center, Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning last weekend, May 22 and 23. Fans of The Big E Cream Puff and Éclair will be able to stop by and pick up their favorite treats at the Bakery drive-up window. Prices are as follows: Cream Puffs and Eclairs, \$5; 3-packs, \$14; 6-packs, \$25 (any combination). To add ganache topping on Cream Puffs, add \$1 each. The option to pre-order online is coming soon. Picking up the pastries is easy –

Enter the grounds at the Exposition’s Gate 2, take an immediate left down the Fair’s Hampden Avenue, and a right at the Fire Station to the Bakery window. The safety of our patrons is of the utmost importance and all local and state guidelines in place at the time of pick-up will be followed. Guests will be asked to remain in their vehicles at all times and wear face masks or coverings when ordering and accepting food. Once food purchases are complete, guests will be directed to exit the grounds. Connect with us on social media and visit [www.TheBigE.com](http://www.TheBigE.com) to join our mailing list.

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Poetry Corner

# Happy and Grateful Memorial Day

By Thomas J. Kennedy

Live from a golden heart,  
And you will never depart ....  
From love of God, Country,  
Constitution and good American people.

Too many left their bodies on foreign shores  
Protecting us and helping others.  
We Americans never give up  
And Today our thoughts and prayers  
Are remembering those who made us Free  
And gave the greatest Country USA Liberty.

Happy and Grateful to all who served  
Their Nation but always never forgetting  
The sky First:  
All branches of service —  
Men who sacrificed for us.  
We will never forget as we honor you  
In your day “Memorial Day” USA.



Guest Column

## Tomato planting 101

With the quintessential frost-free target date of Memorial Day just days away, I think it’s the perfect time to encourage folks to give gardening a try. Growing tomatoes is a good place to start. First, because growing them is relatively easy and secondly, because you will be delighted with a great return for your investment of a little money and some time. No supermarket tomato could ever compare to one that is homegrown and sun-ripened.

First of all, head to the local nursery and select a plant. There are many varieties to choose from. Do you prefer slicing tomatoes, cherry or pear-shaped for salads, or meaty paste types? If you plan on growing your tomato in a patio container, it may be best to settle on a determinate or bush type that will require next to no staking and will remain tidy in its pot.

Find a spot in your yard that gets at least six hours of sun a day. Less than that and you will have more leaves than fruit. If necessary, remove existing sod to accommodate your plant(s). Tomatoes should be spaced about 18 inches to two feet away from one another. For one plant prepare a section two feet wide by two feet deep. Now, go ahead a dig a fairly deep hole. How deep depends on the size of your transplant. Since tomatoes have



the ability to form roots along their stem, plan on burying one-half to three-quarters of the stem in addition to the root ball. Don’t worry; although this planting depth sounds extreme, it will be better for the plant in the long run. In my experience, a cup or two of well-rotted manure or aged compost mixed with the soil in the bottom of the planting hole along with a sprinkling of balanced organic fertilizer is all the food your tomatoes will need during the growing season.

If you plan on growing your tomato in a container, choose one that is at least a foot wide and deeper if possible. Fill it 50/50 with potting soil and garden loam or compost. The blend will be lightweight and nutritious.

Tomatoes need support in the form of a cage or tall bamboo stakes wrapped with twine at regular intervals. Although your transplants may seem puny now, go ahead and install the supports at planting time. Once planting is complete be sure to give them a hearty drink. Continue to water every other day for the first week or so if nature doesn’t provide adequate rainfall. Watering at the base of the plant will direct water to the roots and keep most of the foliage dry. A good practice in disease prevention. Once the plants are established, a deep watering twice a week is all that is necessary. Mulch of some kind, be it

straw, grass clippings, chopped leaves or even sheets of newspaper will keep the weeds down and conserve moisture; some say it also helps to prevent disease by preventing backsplash onto the foliage.

Often times experts recommend pruning away the suckers that form between the main stem and side shoots. If you do you will have fruit that is bigger, but in smaller quantities. Most of all, don’t worry about the rules and regulations, just do your best and have fun with your first gardening experience.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



## May 16 to May 31

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children’s books that emphasize the importance of American history.

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

### HISTORY MATTERS

The Lincoln-Douglas debates pushed the possibility of a Lincoln presidency into inevitability. Positioned against Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois in a sequence of debates during re-election year, Douglas insisted the legality of slavery should be determined by the states and territories. Lincoln argued for its abolition.

Douglas kept his seat and Lincoln lost the argument, but his rhetoric raised his profile, and that of the unshaped Republican party.

Two years later, on May 18, 1860, Lincoln was the party’s nominee for the presidential election. He faced off with Douglas; Southern Democrat John C. Breckinridge; and Constitutional Union candidate John Bell. Lincoln won 40% of the vote and became the first Republican President of the United States.

It was a victory that activated the secession of southern states, the creation of the Confederacy, and the Civil War.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “Lincoln and Douglas: The Debates that Defined America” by Allen C. Guelzo.

### Spirit of St. Louis

At 7:52 in the morning of May 20, 1927, Charles Lindbergh, lifted off in his monoplane, “The Spirit of St. Louis”, from Roosevelt Airfield in Long Island, New York in a win-it or- die-trying” 3,610-mile transatlantic bet. At first, getting airborne was difficult, he had a heavy fuel load, but eventually, he did.

Thirty-three and a half hours later, Lindbergh landed at Le Bourget Airfield, Paris; more than 100,000 people; droves of reporters, and correspondents, awaited the arrival of the first pilot, ever, to make a nonstop U.S. to Europe crossing. The news generated headlines around the world, about “Lucky Lindy” and “The Lone Eagle.” In addition to the acclaim, Lindbergh earned a cash award for his feat, the equivalent of more than \$500,000 in today’s currency.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “Lindbergh” by A. Scott Berg.

### Brooklyn Bridge

Brooklyn was originally a separate city, bifurcated from New York City by the East River. Then, everything changed on May 24, 1883, when the Brooklyn Bridge opened; 250,000 people sauntered across it within 24 hours. It had taken 14 years for John A. Roebling, a German born industrial engineer, to construct what was then the world’s largest and longest suspension structure.

According to History.com, “Roebling is credited with a major breakthrough in suspension-bridge technology: a web truss added to either side of the bridge roadway that greatly stabilized the structure.” Until then, bridges of that type were notorious for their inability to deal with heavy winds and loads.

The Department of Transportation says today, 138 years later, more than 100,000 cars, 4,000 cyclists, and 10,000 pedestrians, cross daily.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends David McCullough’s “The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge.”

the **Sun** HOLYOKE

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## A Quote

### OF NOTE

“We must dare to be great; and we must realize that greatness is the fruit of toil and sacrifice and high courage.”

Theodore Roosevelt

## Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to [thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com). Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



# HCC offering free summer STEM classes

HOLYOKE – The STEM Starter Academy at Holyoke Community College is offering free courses this summer for students interested in pursuing STEM majors at HCC or careers in the STEM field.

“STEM Explorations,” a four-credit lab science class, will run July 6 to Aug. 5 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with an additional lab on either Thursdays or Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The class is open to currently enrolled and incoming HCC students, dual enrolled high school students and adults interested in learning more about STEM. There are no prerequisites to apply for admission and 100 percent of costs are covered.

The course will meet online in real time. Lab kits and course materials are included and will be sent to students’

homes. Supplemental instructors and peer mentors will be available for tutoring and to advise students about STEM options at HCC.

“This is an excellent opportunity to get four free college credits while learning about science, technology, engineering and math,” said Melissa Paciulli, HCC STEM Starter Academy director. “STEM Explorations is always a fun, engaging and exciting class.”

In addition, HCC is also offering a free Calculus 1 class this summer for currently enrolled STEM majors and students who score high enough on the college placement test.

This four-credit online course runs June 7 – July 8.

To apply for free summer STEM classes, please visit: [hcc.edu/stemstarter](http://hcc.edu/stemstarter) For more information, please contact Melissa Paciulli at [mpaciulli@hcc.edu](mailto:mpaciulli@hcc.edu).



A STEM student creates a spark of electricity with a Van de Graaf generator at Holyoke Community College in spring 2018. Submitted photo

## BILL, from page 1

for the project until the Bond Bill is signed into law. If the Aug. 1 deadline is met, the state would be eligible to receive 65% federal reimbursement for the \$400 million Holyoke Soldiers’ Home reconstruction project, a huge chunk of the money needed for the project.

It is not clear when construction of the new facility could start, but there are other steps ongoing at the home, including a new superintendent at the Soldiers Home.

Rick Holloway was named the new superintendent last month. He was

the unanimous choice of the Board of Trustees. Holloway previous was the administrator of the Idaho State Veterans Home.

There are still charges pending against the previous superintendent of the home, Bennet Walsh. He was suspended following the deaths of the residents from COVID-19. He was fired by Gov. Charlie Baker following an independent report stating Walsh’s leadership was part of the problem that led to the large number of deaths. A judge reversed Walsh’s firing, saying Baker did not have the authority to fire Walsh. Walsh would eventually resign after charges were filed against him.

## Author to present via Zoom

HOLYOKE - Jacqueline T. Lynch, author of *Beside the Still Waters*, a novel based on the four towns demolished to create the Quabbin Reservoir, will talk on the historical background of the story

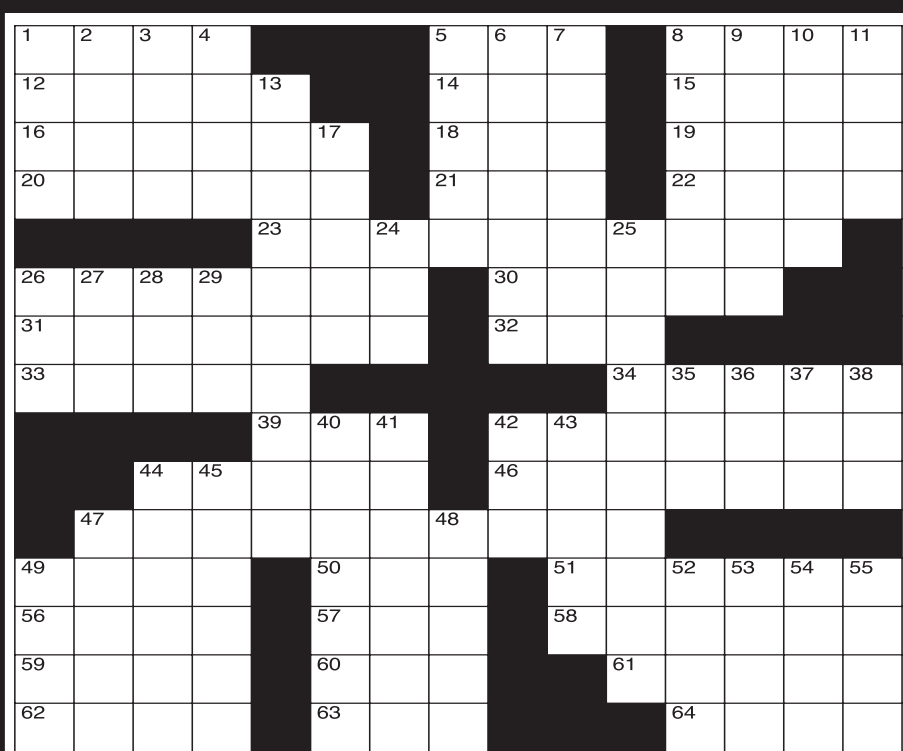
in an online Zoom presentation hosted by the Holyoke Public Library on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7 p.m. For the link to watch the presentation, email: [mbaron@holyokelibrary.org](mailto:mbaron@holyokelibrary.org).

## ORDER, from page 1

that June 19 is a state holiday and will be observed by the City Hall on Friday, June 18 as the holiday is on a Saturday.

Murphy also mentioned that while the date is a state holiday, he

isn’t sure how that affects individual businesses like banks, grocery stores, restaurants and others. Regardless of those independent businesses the City Offices will by observing the holiday as a paid day off for city employees, and this will remain in effect from Wednesday, May 26 forward.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A group of sheep
- 5. Of she
- 8. This (Spanish)
- 12. A type of sorcery
- 14. A team’s best pitcher
- 15. Port in southern Japan
- 16. Makes very happy
- 18. Trigonometric unit of measurement
- 19. From a distance
- 20. Winged nut
- 21. Consumed
- 22. “Heat” director
- 23. In all places
- 26. Made improvements to
- 30. St. \_\_\_ Girl: brand of beer
- 31. A type of “seat”
- 32. Wood
- 33. A brief treatise on a subject of interest
- 34. Approval

- 39. Basics
- 42. Where judges sit
- 44. W. African religion
- 46. Commentators
- 47. Having many different functions
- 49. Member of a Semitic people
- 50. Flightless, fast-running bird
- 51. After the seventh
- 56. Small N. Zealand tree
- 57. Health care pro (abbr.)
- 58. Playground mainstay
- 59. Expressing relief
- 60. Records brain activity (abbr.)
- 61. Fishing net
- 62. Beer
- 63. Tooth caregiver
- 64. Japanese beverage

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Garden tools

- 2. Early Syrian kingdom
- 3. 500 sheets of paper
- 4. Information
- 5. Beloved comic strip character
- 6. Distinct form of a plant
- 7. Replenishment
- 8. Semitransparent glassy substance
- 9. Expedition to observe animals
- 10. One who held landed granted by Anglo-Saxon king
- 11. Obtain in return for labor
- 13. Inheritable genetically
- 17. One who rescues
- 24. Doctor of Education
- 25. Liberal arts
- 26. Shock treatment
- 27. Disfigure
- 28. When you hope to get there
- 29. Peacock network
- 35. Part of (abbr.)
- 36. The 21st letter of the Greek alphabet
- 37. Not just “play”
- 38. Former CIA
- 40. Reduced to a sloping edge
- 41. Restricted the development of
- 42. Sciences degree
- 43. Sea eagles
- 44. Saturated
- 45. Joints
- 47. Sailing boat
- 48. Respiratory organs
- 49. Guitarists use them
- 52. Disco act: Bee \_\_\_
- 53. First Chinese dynasty
- 54. Intentionally lose
- 55. Muslim people of China

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 8

## HAPPY 56TH BIRTHDAY, HEAD START!



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# Storowton Village presents new teen leadership experience

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Storowton Village Museum will embark on an exciting new program and networking opportunity for high school students in August – the Teen Leadership Experience – which will run the first two weeks of the month, Tuesday to Friday from 9:30am to 4:15pm. This innovative new program is able to run

thanks to the generous financial support of the Country School Association of America (CSAA).

The Teen Leadership Experience will allow participants to build skills as future leaders, young professionals, and public history advocates, engaging students in an experiential way virtual schooling over the past year has not.

The program will utilize the book and assessment tool “Clifton Strengths for Students” to guide leadership skill building and team dynamics. During the first week of the program, students will have the opportunity to work in two different areas of interest and will choose one track to focus upon and create a project during week two. Students will learn leadership skills and meet community leaders influenced by public history, in tandem with their historic studies and projects during the second week.

- **Week 1:** Students select a morning track (Blacksmithing: Basics of the Trade or Open Hearth Cooking: From Fire to Table) and afternoon track (STEM: Small Machines 19th Century to Today or Textiles: Cloth Production to Clothing Design). Students will learn foundational skills in the historic subjects as well as leadership and professional skills. By the end of the first week, students will identify one area of focus for the second week.

- **Week 2:** Students complete a project in their preferred track from week 1. They will also spend more time refining their leadership style to help them understand how their strengths can align with their ability to be a strong leader. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to begin putting their professional skills into action by meeting

with community leaders who can share how their connection to public history has helped them progress in their chosen careers and the community at large.

“As we reignite our museum programs following our closure during the pandemic we are thrilled to have the growth of future leaders in public history at the forefront of our rebuilding. We are so grateful for our collaboration with local leaders, including Stan Svec, Chair of the History Department at West Springfield High School, to bring this program, many years in the making, to fruition,” said Jessica K. Fontaine, Director of Storowton Village Museum.

All students, public, private, or home schooled, are eligible to apply, however, priority consideration will be given to West Springfield residents. There is no GPA requirement, though prospective participants must submit one reference from a teacher or other non-family leader, such as a coach or other mentor during the application process. Students must apply by June 15, West Springfield resident applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis; all other applicants will be considered following the application deadline. If accepted a \$25 fee will apply to participate and supplements basic supply costs now covered through a grant from CSAA.



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## Residents sought to serve on city boards

HOLYOKE – Mayor Murphy is inviting all Holyoke residents interested in serving the City through its boards and commissions to send a letter of interest to the Mayor’s Office.

“The City of Holyoke is best served when we work together to solve critical issues. I extend an invitation to all residents to fully engage and participate in making our community a better place in

which to live and work.” Mayor Murphy said. “Resident involvement makes City Hall more inclusive and responsive to the needs of its people while strengthening our local government.”

Furthermore, we ask for community input, thoughts, ideas, and concerns that residents and businesses wish to offer.

To submit your letter of interest and ideas, email: [mayorsoffice@holyoke.org](mailto:mayorsoffice@holyoke.org).

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Jake Swindell winds up for a throw on the javelin.



Dylan Lubold gets a long throw.



Jakob Rist prepares to make an attempt on the long jump.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Boys track falls to Agawam

HOLYOKE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Holyoke boys track lost a tough matchup with Agawam 103-28. Diaz Moore picked up a win for the Knights with a first-place finish in the 800 meter. Dylan Lubold was Holyoke's other winner, taking first place in the javelin throw.

## Hicks gets assist in Pioneers draw

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Connor Hicks, of Monson, assisted on the Pioneers only goal against the Phantoms with 10 minutes remaining in regulation tying the score at 1-1. It wound up being the final score of last Friday night's home match.

"I've been playing soccer for this team for two years and it felt very nice to be a starter in front of the home fans for the first time," said Hicks following the match. "It was a hard-fought battle tonight, and it was a good game for our fans to watch."

Hicks, who's also a member of the AIC men's soccer team, was one of the Pioneers starting defenders, along with Nicholas Obbrauch, who's from Rome,

Italy, Carlos Emery, who's from Paysandu, Uruguay, and Federico Gutierrez, who's from Montevideo, Uruguay. Guillermo Deal and Maxi Viera, who's the Pioneers captain, are also from Montevideo, Uruguay.

"I'm the only defender who doesn't speak Spanish which makes it a little bit difficult at times back there," Hicks said. "I'm learning a lot from those guys and it's a lot of fun playing soccer with them."

Hicks had his own rooting section at last Friday's match.

"My family have been my biggest supporters since I began playing soccer 19 years ago. They haven't missed very many of my games. The atmosphere at the stadium is

See PIONEERS, page 8

## Buffone picks up another win

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Teen sensation Cam Curtis stayed red-hot Saturday, May 22, at Monadnock Speedway, storming to his third Late Model Sportsman feature win in a row. This one was special.

In the Modified main, veteran star Todd Patnode scored

his first victory of the young season. Street Stock ace Chris Buffone earned his third 2021 victory lap, Mini Stock ace Ray King used his second win to move all alone to the top of the points parade, and Nick Houle rocked the Pure Stocks for his first win this year.



Todd Patnode picked up the win last Saturday night in the modified race.

Submitted photo

Young Gun Aaliyah Tacy made her own memories Saturday on the high banks, earning her first career victory.

It was only a year ago that someone dominated the LMS field like Cam Curtis is doing right now at Monadnock. That someone was, of course, Aaron Fellows. But while the Croydon star was 40 and had more than two decades of racing experience under his belt, Curtis is only 15.

Cory Plummer and Robert Hagar led the 23-car LMS lineup to the green as the 52-lap Dean Smith Memorial event got underway. Plummer led lap one but was then dumped from the point, with Exeter, N.H. hot shoe Frankie Eldredge then taking charge on the ensuing restart.

With a \$1,300 winner's purse and lots of lap money up for grabs, Eldredge kept the cash coming in for the next 23 laps, but Curtis, then done

See RACING, page 8



# Host families sought for Valley Blue Sox players

HOLYOKE – One of the most frequently asked questions we receive here at the Blue Sox front office is ‘where do your players live?’ The answer is host families. Host families ‘adopt’ a player during the summer – and in the process form lifelong friendships and bonds with the players. Not only do you get to follow ‘your boys’ through a season of Blue Sox baseball – but you get to stay in touch with them as they chase their dream of becoming a Major League Baseball player.

Being a host family is a tremendous-

ly rewarding experience. If you’re interested, the following information is for you!

What’s expected of the host family?

Host families are to provide free room and board to players during the 2 ½ month Blue Sox season. Players are responsible for making their way to and from the park for each game – but the more you can be present, the better. Above all else, it’s your job as a host family to help make the players transition to a new and sometimes foreign community easier. While players are developing

as professionals, they are still young men who are learning to adjust without their Mother of Father to provide. Your job is to simply help bridge that gap.

What’s in it for the host family?

As a thank you to opening up your home and families to our players, you get provided with the following benefits:

- Paid General Admission for your family throughout the season
- Food vouchers for each home game
- Special on-field recognition at the end of the season
- Access to special team events

- Free tickets to the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

And who knows – the next future hall of Famer may be starting his career here in the Valley and he could be bunking in your home, playing games with your kids and sharing Sunday dinner with your family.

If you are interested in being a host family, please call our office at (413) 533-1100 or e-mail Heather Ciaglo at [heather.ciaflo@valleybluesox.com](mailto:heather.ciaflo@valleybluesox.com). Give us a call today.

## PIONEERS, from page 7

always very special. Everyone enjoys coming here and they always have a good time.”

Hicks, who graduated from Monson High School in 2017, was a five-year member of the boys varsity soccer team. He helped the Mustangs win back-to-back Division 4 state championship titles in 2015 and 2016. Hicks, who was the hero of the 2016 state finals against Cohasset, scored a total of 32 goals during the final two seasons of his varsity career. He has scored a handful of goals at AIC where he’s a midfielder.

“I normally play on the right wing at AIC,” Hicks said. “I’ve started at right back in the last two matches for the Pioneers. I’m used to playing on that side of the field and I’ll play any position that coach (Federico) Molinari wants me to play. I really enjoy being a member of this soccer team.”

Molinari appreciates Hicks’s dedication, and he earned his starting position.

“Even though he didn’t get very much playing time last season (2019), Conner didn’t miss any practices,” Molinari said. “He’s been working very hard so far this season and deserves to be one of the starters. He has really improved a lot.”

Hicks made his first career start on May 15 in the Pioneers 1-0 shutout win at FC Malaga City, which is a new USL League Two club this season from Lagrangeville, New York.

The Pioneers had a 1-1-1 overall record following the home opener. They lost to the Boston Bolts in another road match in the season opener.

During the 30th minute of last Friday’s home opener, it looked like Seacoast would be taking a 1-0 lead Mullen made an outstanding diving save on the low shot attempt by Frantz Pierrot and managed to deflect the ball away. Mullen was credited with a total of four saves.

The Pioneers had a couple of chances late in the half, but the contest was still scoreless at the break.

The Phantoms, who arrived in Ludlow with a 2-0-0 season record, took a 1-0 lead following a free kick during the 69th minute. The free kick was taken from the right sideline by Jamie Davis and the ball sailed to the far post where

Maxwell Murray booted it into the right corner of the goal.

A little more than ten minutes later, Hicks sent a pass into the box where Patrick Agyemang knocked it into the right corner of the goal tying the score.

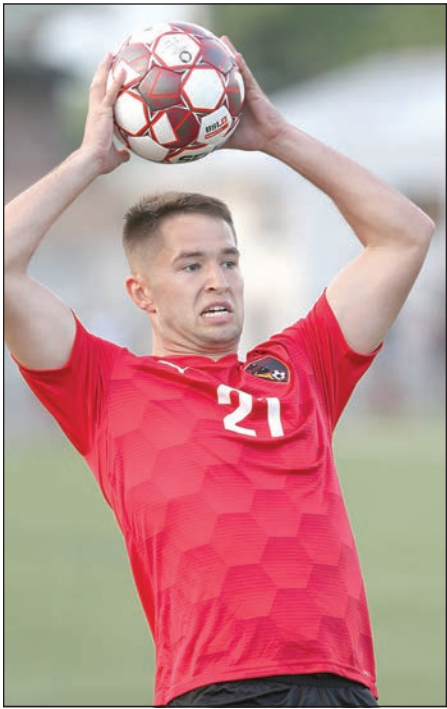
“I crossed the ball into the box to Pat and he finished off the play by scoring a goal,” Hicks said. “It was actually my first career point as a member of the Pioneers.”

Agyemang, who’s from East Hartford, Connecticut, entered the match during the 73rd minute.

It was his first goal of the season. Ignacio Lerech, who’s from Tucuman, Argentina, netted the Pioneers goal late in the second half against FC Malaga City.

With a little more than five minutes remaining, a shot attempt by Gabriel Ganzer, who’s a first-year Pioneers player from Taquarucu do Sul, Brazil was saved by Seacoast goalie Christian Garner.

The Pioneers are scheduled to play two more road matches against AC Connecticut (May 26) and Seacoast United (May 29) before returning to the friendly confines of Lusitano Stadium on June 4 to face FC Malaga City.



Connor Hicks takes a throw-in.  
*Photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com*

## RACING, from page 7

with conserving his tires, rocketed to the front, dominating the final 28 go-rounds to top the prestigious Smith Memorial event.

The win helped Curtis expand his points lead after four nights of racing. Eldredge completed his strong night’s work in second, while Austin Brehio’s race-long solid performance netted him third on the night.

There was no full moon Saturday looking down on Monadnock Speedway, a fact perhaps misunderstood by a portion of the Modified field. It took six cautions to get their 40-lapper completed.

Todd Patnode, charging from row six, took the lead from Kimmy Rivet on lap 19 and sailed off to his first win of the season. Cory Plummer passed Tyler Leary with the white flag in the air to come home second.

Street Stock powerhouse Chris Buffone edged past Tim Wenzel on lap ten and then held him in his shadow the rest of the way to score his third 2021 victory. With Wenzel strong in second, two-time 2020 winner Hillary Renaud came home third.

A week ago, Mini Stock rockers Gordon Farnum and Ray King sat on row five, with Farnum then blasting to victory. This week, with the potent pair now tied atop the points parade, they again started side-by-side in row five.

This time, it was King scoring the easy win. Cody Leblanc – all the way from Bethlehem, N.H., more than three hours away – was strong in second, and Kevin Cormier came home third. Farnum finished sixth on Saturday.

Pure Stocker Nick Houle finished off his impressive weekend by winning Saturday’s 25-lapper. Third the night before at Claremont, Houle went tooth-and-nail with JD Stockwell over their last ten trips around the high banks to score the win.

Stockwell, rock solid all night, earned the runner-up hardware, with Kyle Robinson Newell impressive in third, just ahead of division strongman Chris Davis. Chris Higbee rounded out the top five after leading the first 15 laps.

Aaliyah Tacy kept Fast Eddie Petruskevicious in her shadow all the

way to score her first-ever Young Guns victory. Teagan Edson was third under the checkers in her first career race.

Next Saturday, May 29, Monadnock Speedway will celebrate Memorial Day weekend with a special Teddy Bear Pools Street Stock 50-lapper, NHSTRA Modifieds, and much more. Post time is 7 p.m.

**Monadnock Speedway May 22 official results:**

**LATE MODEL SPORTSMEN, 52 LAPS:** Camdyn Curtis ,Frankie Eldredge ,Austin Brehio,Robert Hagar, Hayden, Scott,Ryan Currier,Craig Smith, Robert Melvin Jr,William Kuhn,Cory Plummer,Ryan Bell,Dylan Bodreau,Daniel Comeau,Nancy Muni Ruot,Justin Littlewood,Jason Maki,Cole Littlewood,Tyler Lescord,Scott Beck,Rocky Smith,Ricky Bly,Ben Poland,Christopher Jackman

**NHSTRA MODIFIEDS:** Todd Patnode, Cory Plummer, Tyler Leary, Matt Kimball, Aaron Fellows, Scott MacMichael, JT Cloutier, Chris Jackman, Eric LeClair, Kimmy Rivet, Bryan Chapin, Ben Byrne

**STREET STOCKS:** Chris Buffone, Tim Wenzel, Hillary Renaud, Nate Wenzel, Rupert Thompson, Keith Johnson, Paul Smith, Nathaniel Nunez, Scott Zilinsky, Chris Riendeau, (DNS) Leighton Lutz

**MINI STOCKS:** Ray King, Cody Leblanc, Kevin Cormier, Louie Maher, Kevin Clayton, Gordon Farnum, Kevin McKnight, Jeff Asselin, Mike Douglas, Jake Puchalski. 11. 57X-Patrick Houle, 15C-Trevor Carey, William Chaffee, Robert Kirker, Richard Whipple, Matthew Lambert, Deion Russell, Christopher Grove, (DNS) Josh Wright, (DNS) Ethan Marsh

**PURE STOCKS:** Nick Houle, JD Stockwell, Kyle Robinson Newell, Chris Davis, Chris Higbee, Jake Bosse, Jason LeRay, Kevin Willey, Jimmy Zellman, Damien Houle, 33-Tim Shepard, Brianna Patnode, Carter Chamberlin, James Decourey, Dakota Lanou, Reagan Buffum, Ryan Lawliss, Brittany Patnode, Cory Lofland, Damon Roy, (DNS) Steven Zebrowski

**YOUNG GUNS:** Aaliyah Tacy, Eddie Petruskevicius, Teagan Edson, Jeff Moffat Jr., Eddie Gomarlo.

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The Sun

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is seeking an experienced Grants Manager to perform all grants accounting and grants management functions. This position serves as a key member of the finance team to perform grants management oversight and coordination related to all capital projects; conduct periodic account analysis, reconciliation, and reporting; prepare inventory certification for the Federal Transit Authority (FTA); and maintain all related records and documentation in compliance with regulatory requirements and established procedures. This position also serves as DBE Liaison for the PVTA. This is an excellent career opportunity for a seasoned grants management professional. Wage range \$25-\$30/hour depending on experience, with excellent benefits package including pension, 457b, generous paid time off benefits and more.

If you would like to be considered for this outstanding career opportunity, please review a detailed position description and qualification requirements on our website at [www.pvta.com/careers](http://www.pvta.com/careers) prior to applying. Please upload cover letter and resume via our website or mail directly to PVTA, Attn: Human Resources Manager, 665 Cottage Street, Springfield, MA 01104. AA/EEO/DF/ADA.

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# EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON**

**Friday, May 28**

*Thank you!*

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## LISTENING, from page 1

available work force, and branding to people but also retaining the ones that you have, that's what we want to do."

Murphy also mentioned some sort of financial incentive for new hires, and if that's done then something equal should happen for current staff who have been working with businesses throughout the pandemic. While this would take some time to look into to see if it's financially possible, Murphy mention that he would do the work if it's something restaurants and other business feel they need, though this is not the first step as other way to bring up local tourism and traffic of people are also discussed.

Vega mentioned that there is a shortage in work due to technical advances like self-checkout replacing cashiers and drones or delivery carts replacing delivery drivers, and that there is a concern in these automated systems replacing jobs. This was in response to an online suggestion of having the city look more into the technical industry, Vega mentioned that these are current concerns and he is working alongside others on a tourism project for the city. This would help to get more foot traffic into the city daily including the weekend, he mentioned added businesses, restaurants, and local activities to the downtown area to make Holyoke a place people want to be.

Vega said the tourism plan includes

reaching out the Holyoke Mall for ways they could contribute or advertise, he also mentioned appealing to students in high school and local colleges for jobs or volunteering in other projects. This led to a discussion on the Farmers Market, which is held every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Race Street from now to October, some attendees of the listening session spoke about the farmers market impacting their businesses in different ways.

At the market there are different booths of local businesses and farmers, some restaurant owners said the prices of the food and produce at the market make people not want to visit their establishments after.

Others spoke about wanting to join, which Director of the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce Jordan Hart commented that the farmers market is on a sliding scale for costs including joining and selling within the market.

She encouraged those with questions or those who are interested in participating to call the Chamber of Commerce or reach out to her directly, people can call the chamber at 413-534-3376. Hart also spoke about focusing on the downtown area to attract more people to visit the city, she mentioned getting newer public accessories like trash cans and plant pots to bring more curb appeal to the city.

"It's hard to sell a community and it's hard to bring people in to come to the downtown area," Hart said. "If we have a

nice, colorful look we could attract more people."

She said the Farmers Market is a part of that look and she thanked the Mayor and the powers that be for allowing the market to function and be a success this year.

Those who attended included the owner of Crave in Holyoke and the owner of Paper City Brewery as well as School Committee member Devin Sheehan, they each spoke about community projects the city could look into holding. Crave's owner mentioned they started a Composting Co-op and if people were interested in joining they could call the store for information, those interested can call 413-427-9328.

Paper City Brewery commented that local restaurants could participate in holiday events like a fall festival or celebrate the fall solstice with businesses putting Jack-O-Lantern's in front of their businesses. Possibly getting the pumpkins from local farms and promoting that to community members who visit their establishments, additionally they could do a similar event for the summer.

Sheehan proposed getting more students involved in outdoor activities and volunteering, maybe at the farmers market, or possibly teaming up with restaurants while working on the community garden. Crave agreed and mentioned that restaurants could buy the produce from the community garden, as a way

to make stronger connections within the community and keep those connections strong. While attendees thanked Vega and Murphy for holding the listening session and wanting to help, Murphy also thanked those who attended in person and online. Murphy said he appreciated people coming out to ask needed questions and come up with ways to help the community, and business industry in the city.

He understands that restaurants have had a tough year and he wants to help in any way they can, he and Vega spoke about some marketing ideas for restaurants after the listening session. "We're thinking of holding a restaurant tasting in the auditorium, after the pandemic of course. I'm thinking we could get 30 to 40 restaurants in for a few hours and have a well-spaced system for people to try foods," Murphy said. "Vega and I have been considering different ways to help and advertise businesses, we spoke about it after the session and again today."

Murphy is letting people know that even though the listing session is over, he's not done working on this and he's proud that people know the door is open and he and others are listening. Murphy assured that there'd be more listening sessions, and said another business leader listening session is being planned for later this month. These sessions are things he will continue to do to hear from the community's businesses.



# Fireworks back on in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD – It’s official! Star Spangled Springfield fireworks will be returning to the city’s skyline on Sunday, July 4.

When Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker announced that all COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted on May 29, the Spirit of Springfield reached out to Fireworks by Grucci to determine their ability to perform. After they checked their inventory and production schedule, and rounded up a team of top-notch pyrotechnicians, Fireworks By Grucci committed to provide a spectacular fireworks display for Springfield.

“We are so excited to be back in the business of bringing the community together in celebration,” said Spirit of Springfield President Judy Matt. “Now is the time to celebrate. Our community needs this and our spirits need this. We look forward to a safe and family-friendly atmosphere, and are grateful for the support and services from the City of Springfield and all of our partners.”

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno stated, “When you wish upon a star, magic is sure to follow. It is with great pride and joy that we announce that our beloved Spirit of Springfield Star Spangled

Fourth of July Fireworks are back. As my administration continues to review our phased reopening plans in light of the Commonwealth lifting and relaxing the COVID-19 Coronavirus restrictions, and after meeting with my Cabinet Heads and Spirit of Springfield President Judy Matt, we are pleased to announce that we are confident that we can hold this joyous and festive event – much as we did 10 years ago with our tornado recovery. What better way to celebrate the resiliency of our city as we transition to post-pandemic recovery aspects, then with our Star-Spangled Fourth of July fireworks. This is wonderful and great news and will be a huge boost for the psyche of our Springfield and all of Western Massachusetts. I want to thank Fireworks by Grucci for confirming that they would be able to coordinate the firework display this year and want to thank all of our residents and business community for their patience, understanding, and vigilance during this past year. Again, Health and Human Services Commissioner Helen Caulton-Harris and I will continue to stress that to completely beat this COVID-19 we must all get vaccinated. Now with the vaccine read-

ily available we can begin the process of healing and recovery. What better way to kick this off then with some good old fashion Fourth of July fireworks.”

More details about Star Spangled Springfield, restrictions, entertainment, and sponsors, will be released at a later date.

Star Spangled Springfield has been a celebration of the country’s independence and a July 4 tradition since 1991. It has featured musical entertainment, family-friendly activities, and world-class pyrotechnics by Fireworks by Grucci. MassMutual has been the lead sponsor since 2006 with additional support from area businesses.

For updates, follow Spirit of Springfield on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and visit spiritofspringfield.org.



# WSU to offer SAT online help for students

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University will offer multiple sessions of its SAT Online Summer Institute for high school students, starting June 14.

In partnership with Educational Testing Consultants Inc., the SAT Online Summer Institute provides 20 hours of live, online instruction offered in multiple formats, including a condensed two-week session. Multiple sessions will be held, making it convenient for students to choose the time and format that works best for them to study and develop the essential test-taking skills needed to do well on the exam. Students receive an in-depth review of the exam content, strategies for improving their scores, and a comprehensive study plan.

The cost of the SAT Online Summer Institute is \$499, which includes all books and materials as well as access to online resources through the end of the year. For more information, contact Brandon Fredette at [bfredette@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:bfredette@westfield.ma.edu) or 413-572-8033. To register online for any of the available sessions, visit [www.westfield.ma.edu/testprep](http://www.westfield.ma.edu/testprep).

# Services resuming at United Congregational Church of Holyoke

HOLYOKE – After 15 months, it’s finally time to come back. The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is pleased to announce that in-person worship services are returning every Sunday at 10 a.m. beginning June 6.

UCC Holyoke last held worship ser-

vice in-person in March of 2020. After the Covid-19 pandemic suspended in-person services and programs, the church began livestreaming worship services via Facebook and YouTube.

For updates and details regarding worship services, please visit UCC’s web-

site at [www.uccholyoke.org](http://www.uccholyoke.org) or the UCC Holyoke Facebook page.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all individuals, regardless of where they are on their journey.

If you’d like to learn more about UCC Holyoke, please visit our website at [www.uccholyoke.org](http://www.uccholyoke.org), find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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